

AUTOMOTIVE

Driverless parking function from Mercedes-Benz, Bosch goes public

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The driverless automated valet parking service from Mercedes-Benz and Bosch is now commercially available. Image courtesy of Mercedes-Benz

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Germany's Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA) has given a passing grade to the driverless function, the automated valet parking service, from luxury automotive brand Mercedes-Benz and Bosch.

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The KBA approved the use of the mechanism within a parking garage at the Stuttgart Airport in Germany, limiting it to the P6 garage. With this approval comes the release of the first commercially used driverless parking at this high level of function.

"The world's first approval for customer use of our highly automated and driverless parking function, developed together with our technology partner Bosch, shows that innovation leadership and Made in Germany go hand in hand," said Markus Schfer, member of the board of management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG and chief technology officer of development and procurement, in a statement.

"Following the market launch of our Drive Pilot Level 3 system, we will soon be offering a Level 4 system for parking with our Intelligent Park Pilot all of that this year," he said.

"We really are showing our customers how technology can make life easier and give back precious time."

Drive towards accessibility

Driving features such as this widen the accessibility of driving, making mobility possible for more consumers.

This will also allow those who already drive the chance to do other things while driving, saving them energy and time.

This move towards a driverless world is more convenient for drivers, and freeing for those who have not yet had a chance behind the wheel.

"Driverless parking is a key aspect of automated mobility," said Dr. Markus Heyn, member of the Bosch board of management and chairman of the mobility solutions business sector, in a statement.

"The highly automated parking system we developed together with our partner Mercedes-Benz shows just how far we've already progressed along this development path," he said.

"It will be with driverless parking that everyday automated driving will start. From the outset, Bosch has taken the approach of making the infrastructure in parking garages intelligent. Accordingly, we have set standards in this area."

"In the future, our aim is to equip more and more parking garages with the necessary infrastructure technology. We plan to do several hundred of them worldwide in the next few years."



From left to right: Walter Schfer, managing director at Flughafen Stuttgart GmbH; Markus Schfer, chief technology officer, development & procurement Mercedes-Benz Group AG; Markus Heyn, chairman of the mobility solutions business sector at Robert Bosch GmbH; Niels Christ, group director of Urban Hubs at APCOA Parking Holdings GmbH Stuttgart. Image courtesy of Mercedes-Benz

The system will work via an app on the driver's phone. When arriving at the garage, they can simply get out of the car and use the app to send the car to its space.

Sensors will keep the vehicle on track, keeping it from obstacles by sending information to the car itself. The car will return itself to be picked up, again without any driver.

The efforts of [Bosch](#) to apply the proper network to the airport's garage and the advanced technology from [Mercedes-Benz](#) are what made this endeavor possible, the process beginning in 2019 with the permit receipt.

The two companies worked on the system using models in-progress in the Mercedes-Benz Museum, moving forward towards this current permit.

Now, Germany is now the international leader in driverless vehicles.

"We are proud that STR has been chosen as the airport for this global premiere," said Walter Schfer, management spokesperson for Flughafen Stuttgart GmbH, in a statement.

"The project shows how innovative our region is," he said.

"Automated Valet Parking really enhances our flight passengers' comfort and convenience and saves them time, especially when they're in a hurry and just want to drop their car off quickly at the airport."